Athens 23d. July 1835.

Dear Brethren,

Your Communication, ~~bearing date~~ of April 3d. 1834, I received five or six months after that date, & at a time, when the state of my health was such, as seemed to demand, that I should refrain, as much as possible, from writing & even from reading - In addition to general debility of health, my eyes were very weak, so much so, that the light was often painful. Afterwards, when ~~the light~~ my eyes were stronger and my health better, I was prevented from writing, by the pressing & important duties, connected with my mission, a part of which duties were to give instruction eight times a week in the Sacred Scriptures, to the different Classes in the Gymnasium, under my direction, besides performing divine service in Greek, once always, & generally twice every Lord's day. This together with the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures, School-books & Tracts, & the ordinary duties, devolving upon one, who has a family & liable to interruptions from calls of friends, &c, is all the apology I have for leaving your letter so long unanswered - & I trust, ~~that~~ you will consider it as a sufficient one - Should you not consider it so now, you will hereafter, in case you are ever called to preach & teach in a strange Language - I am so occupied that I find it very difficult, to pay those visits, which the social relations of life seem often to demand. In making this apology, I have answered in part, one of your questions, as to the manner, in which I employ my time -

My time, (excepting the hours, appointed for giving Instruction in the Gymnasium) is not like that of a student, which he may divide according to his liking, but rather like that of a merchant, who must attend to the call of every man, from morning till night. I have domestics in my family, but live in a very simple, plain manner - *Simplicity* & *plainness* in diet, are essential in all warm climates, both for health & usefulness - & I have often thought, that it ~~was~~ is the *want* of these, which causes so many Clergymen in our cities to go down to the grave in early life - The want of these, I am persuaded, is the cause of that sad evil, so much complained of in England & America, called the Dyspepsy - which covers the mind with clouds & darkness. Strict temperance in food & drink, so often enjoined in the word of God, is absolutely essential for the health both of soul & body, & consequently to the usefulness of a minister at home, or a missionary abroad.

As to your question with regard to Languages, I would say, that for every Missionary coming to the Mediterranean, the knowledge of the French & Italian will be useful - A knowledge of the Mod. Greek, can be gained much easier & better among the Greeks themselves, than in America.

The first & greatest qualifications for a Missionary, & a missionary's wife, going to any part of the world whatever, are *humility* *patience*, & *zeal*, *arising* from *true love* to *Christ* which exceeds all other love, & which causes ~~a man~~ them to seek not their *own*, but the things, that are Christ's - to endure all trials & crosses, for Christ & to labour constantly for Christ. With such a disposition of the heart, the more knowledge they possess, the better; & without it, their knowledge may puff up, but will not be likely to edify -

Entire devotedness to Christ is necessary both for the minister of Christ at home & the missionary abroad – It is to be feared, that both one & the other, too often keep back, like Ananias & Sapphira, "a part of the price," of what they possess, while publicly they declare, that they have given themselves, soul & body to Christ, & his service –

A thorough knowledge of the Sacred *Scriptures* in the *original Languages*, is exceedingly important, & of more value, than a knowledge of all the Systems of Theology, that were ever written. That knowledge, united with frequent prayer & meditation, cannot fail to render the intelligent student, capable of high & holy enterprizes, in the field of missions. – The word of God, clearly taught to the minds, & affectionately enforced upon the consciences of men, is the grand means, by which every Missionary is to strive to build up & extend the kingdom of his Lord & Master.

As to trials, every one must expect to meet with more or less of them, wherever he may be placed, or in whatever situation he may be placed. It seems to be a part of the economy of Divine Providence that we should be tried in this world – We cannot be more so however, than those worthies were, who are mentioned in the 11th ch. of St. Paul's Epist. to the Hebrews. Should any of us be called to similar trials, may we like them, be enabled to obtain "a good report through faith," & finally be united with those, who "came out of great tribulation & have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

I beg you will present my very affectionate regards to your excellent Professors, & believe me to be yours truly, Jonas King.

Received at Smyrna the 6 Septr. 1835
forwarded — —

By Yr. Mt. Ot. Sts
Jacob Van Lennep & Co.

SHIP

BOSTON
NOV
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To
Mr. O. M. Johnson, Agt. Cor. Secy.
or any member of the Socy. of Inquiry,
in ~~the~~ Theological Seminary, at
Princeton,
New Jersey,
U.S.A.

Care of J. Van Lennep Esq.
Consul General &c. &c.
Smyrna.

Received November 25. 1835.
Answered Oct. 1838